

1. Last week I completed the exegesis and analysis of Dan 2:41-48 and when time expired I had just set the stage for a study of Dan 2:49.

2. Before returning to Dan 2:49 I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 2:36-48:

Dan 2:36 Now my King with reference to what you dreamed, I shall interpret it for you.

Dan 2:37 You Nebuchadnezzar are unique, for the God of the Universe has given you a remarkable kingdom; a kingdom of glamour and military power.

Dan 2:38 God has given you authority over the entire earth, yes O King you are the head of gold.

Dan 2:39 But after you shall arise an inferior kingdom consisting of the Medes and Persians and after this kingdom shall arise, the Graeco-Macedonian kingdom.

Dan 2:40 And then a fourth kingdom--the Roman Empire. This fourth Kingdom will be strong like iron. It shall break and subdue all things; the iron empire shall bruise all peoples, especially my people Israel, who are under divine discipline.

Dan 2:41 And then you saw the feet and toes, made partly of potters' clay (the undetermined nations) and partly of iron (the Revived Roman Empire); this kingdom shall be divided, but it shall have the cohesive political power of the old Roman Empire.

Dan 2:42 And as the ten toes were partly iron and partly clay, so shall the kingdom represented be partly strong and partly broken, the clay being dominated by the stronger iron.

Dan 2:43 And where you saw iron mixed with clay, these nations shall mingle themselves with the seed of men, representing the union of religious and political institutions, but they shall not completely adhere, even as iron does not mix with clay.

Dan 2:44 And at the end of the time of Jacob's trouble, God shall set up the Kingdom of Christ which shall never be destroyed; it shall consume all the nations aligned with the Antichrist; Christ's kingdom shall stand forever.

Dan 2:45 This is the meaning of the gigantic stone, the Messiah Christ Who was cut out of the mountain, a giant stone made not with the hands of man, but solely a product of God; as you saw the Great Stone break in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver and the gold. The God of the universe has made known to Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. The dream is accurate and the interpretation of it is sure.

Dan 2:46 Then the king fell on his face to worship Daniel, and commanded others to worship him also.

Dan 2:47 And he said, surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings; He is a revealer of secrets, having revealed my dream to you.

Dan 2:48 Because of the King's gratitude and admiration for Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar gave him gifts and made him ruler over all the Satrapes and wise men of Babylon.

3. Now let's continue our study with an analysis of verse forty-nine.

Dan 2:49 "Then Daniel made a request of the King, he asked for positions of responsibility for his friends; accordingly Shadrach Meshach and Abednego were placed over the affairs of the province of Babylon; Daniel however was given even greater responsibility for he sat by the King's side as his special advisor."

## Principles

1. Man's extremity is God's opportunity; Nebuchadnezzar's dream was the means of introducing God to Nebuchadnezzar.

1.1 It will be some time before it "sinks in" but eventually God will have his way with Nebuchadnezzar. After a bout with "zoanthropy" Daniel will finally publish his "salvation tract." But that is getting ahead of ourselves. Oh what the heck—a preview of coming attractions.

Dan 4:1 King Nebuchadnezzar, To the peoples, nations and men of every language, who live in all the world: May you prosper greatly!

Dan 4:2 It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me.

Dan 4:3 How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation.

1.2 God could use Daniel to accomplish this great witness before the king because he was a prepared believer. He will also use his three friends to impress the king.

1.3 In fact as we will see in chapter three that Daniel is not around when Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego will be severely tested and pass with flying colors. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, like Daniel, are prepared men. Men full of doctrine and ready to be tested. So when Daniel is off serving the king in some other province, the three amigos are "showing off."

2. Now back to our story. Human wisdom is futile; all the wise men could not help the king; divine viewpoint (Bible doctrine) however overcomes the futility of human viewpoint.

3. God always has a man for the crisis. Daniel was ready because he was saturated with Bible doctrine; he had Bible doctrine in his soul and was the recipient of capacity for service and blessings from God.

3.1 Prepared men are blessed.

4. Great men of the world are often the most miserable (or frightened); this because true happiness is the exclusive possession of a mature believer, materialistic possessions or positions do not assure peace of mind.

5. A national crisis in this case provided opportunity for witnessing. As a matter of principle, a believer's demonstration of stability under pressure frequently causes the unbeliever to sit up and take notice.

6. Daniel answered Arioeh with "counsel and wisdom" instead of hysteria and panic.

6.1 Being in fellowship is imperative for service. Fellowship is a product of confession of sin.

1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

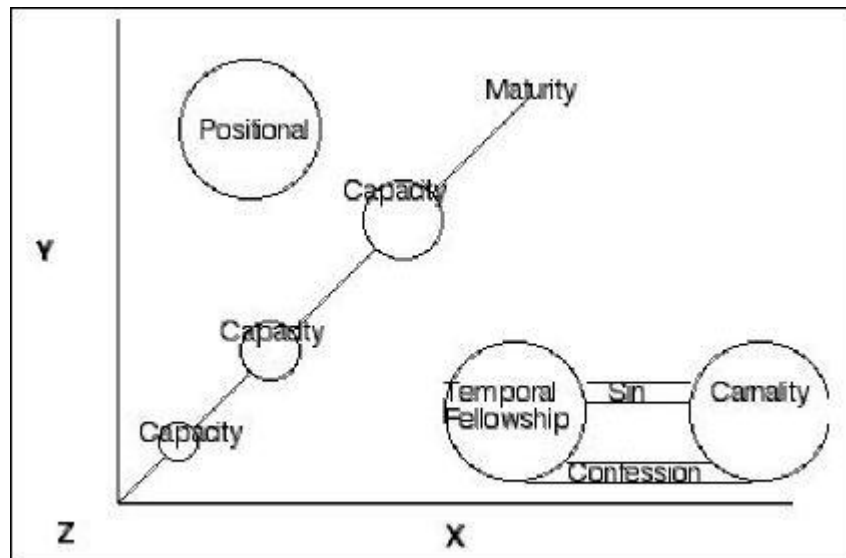
6.2 Rebound was just as much a part of the life of the Old Testament saint as it is the New Testament saint.

Psa 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

Psa 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

6.3 A prepared believer, to be used of God to the maximum, must move to the high ground of spiritual maturity using a double column advance.

6.4 The two columns are rebound and the consistent intake of the Word. A chart will illustrate.



7. Knowledge of doctrine strengthens faith and provides confidence; not once did Daniel waver or falter. He knew God had the answers and trusted Him to provide the solution needed.

7.1 Wisdom and sound counsel can only come from doctrine in the soul and this Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had.

7.2 Recall these young men learned under the good King Josiah and though his progenies apparently learned nothing, these little boys running around the palace were positive "their little minds like a sponge soaked up the Word."

8. Fellowship with other believers is important! The Doctrine of Separation teaches us the importance of "peers" and this sometimes demands separation from certain types of people regardless of their eternal destiny. A reversionistic antinomian believer is to be avoided in the same way as an antinomian unbeliever.

8.2 Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego chose their friends properly (one another) and their sound choices paid huge dividends.

9. Prayer is the believer's "hot line" to God. God has provided this grace mechanism. The dynamics of prayer are limitless!

10. Doctrine provides orientation to suffering as well as to success; stability results from doctrine in the soul.

11. Adherence to Bible doctrine can also restore the prosperity of a nation; rejection of Bible doctrine can result in the destruction of a nation. The size of a nation's pivot is critical. A pivot is best defined as "a large group of Bible believing believers resident in a nation."

11.1 Said another way, a large pivot sustains a nation and a large spin-off destroys a nation.

12. Daniel is a perfect example of a believer who knew doctrine, and under the stress and threat of being executed if he first used the doctrine resident in his soul and then God provided the dream and its interpretation.

12.1 Daniel successfully withstood the pressures of both adversity and prosperity. As we will see he did not let his success go to his head.

13. Before beginning our study of Daniel chapter three let me give you an expanded translation of verse forty-nine.

Dan 2:49 Then remembering his friends, Daniel requested that the king do something for them; and the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to high positions in the land: but Daniel was made head of the Babylonian court system while also serving as a special advisor to the King.

14. Now let's see what we can learn from Daniel chapter three.

## Introduction

1. Daniel, Chapter 3 is a perfect picture of God's loving care and total provision for members of His family in all circumstances of life.

2. In chapter three we will see how God delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego even under extreme adversity; it simply proves once again that "with God nothing is impossible" (Luke 1:30-34).

Luk 1:30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God.

Luk 1:31 And, behold, you shalt conceive in your womb, and bring forth a son, and you shall call his name JESUS.

Luk 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

Luk 1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Luk 1:34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I have not had intercourse with a man?

3. When Daniel interpreted a series of dreams for King Nebuchadnezzar, the king was so impressed that he promoted Daniel and his three friends over those who were no doubt their senior.

3.1 This will create a great deal of jealousy on the part of those passed over.

4. The fact that the dream of Chapter two depicted Nebuchadnezzar as the golden head of the awesome image; this seemed to trigger Nebuchadnezzar's power lust.

5. Although Nebuchadnezzar had recognized the omnipotence of God when Daniel presented divine revelation concerning the king's place in world history, he failed to recognize the need to accept the grace of God which had placed him there.

6. It was God who had given Nebuchadnezzar a great empire and permitted him to rule, but he abused this authority by worshiping the power rather than the source of the power.

Daniel 2:37: "Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory."

Psa 75:6 "For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

Psa 75:7 But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another

Dan 2:21 He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

Dan 2:22 He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.

7. Nebuchadnezzar like his father before him had sought to consolidate his empire through internationalism.

7.1 This practice of creeping national hegemony is an anathema to God.

7.1.1 Making matters worse he also saw fit to pursue religious internationalism.

7.1.3 His bent on self-aggrandizement caused him to even deify himself for he created an image of himself and demanded the world worship him.

7.1.4 That his actions seem to be a precursor of those of the Antichrist should not go unnoticed.

7.2 The building of the image was fostered by Satan himself, and therefore it was an abomination to the Lord.

8. To understand this chapter in the Book of Daniel and make application to our own lives, we must be cognizant of the seductive appeal of the devil's counterfeit program, which is religion!

9. Satanic strategy seeks to win the approbation of God (or gods) through good works, while Christianity is an individual relationship with God through the person of Christ:

10. Let's see what the Scriptures have to say about Satan's counterfeits.

10.1 There is a counterfeit gospel.

2Co 11:3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2Co 11:4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

10.2 Paul makes clear in Romans chapter one of the evils of rejecting the real gospel. Once the message of Christ is rejected there are all kinds of “substitutzkies.”

Rom 1:15 That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome.

Rom 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Rom 1:17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Rom 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

Rom 1:19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 1:22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

Rom 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Rom 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

Rom 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.

Rom 1:26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.

Rom 1:27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Rom 1:28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

10.2.1 The world is and always has been a very religious place.

10.2.2 The major "threat" to Christianity today is not the agnostic but the growth of the Muslim religion.

10.2.3 It would seem that down through the ages mankind has had a need for God or god. Their mantra has forever been "God must exist because virtually everyone in the world believes in him therefore so should I."

10.3 There are plenty of counterfeit ministers in this world.

2Co 11:13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

2Co 11:14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

Mat 7:22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'

Mat 7:23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

10.4 Counterfeit ministers certainly exist today but they shall proliferate as time progresses.

1Ti 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

Mar 13:5 Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

Mar 13:6 Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many.

10.5 There is also a counterfeit communion table.

1Co 10:20 No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.

1Co 10:21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

10.6 There is a counterfeit righteousness. Mat 19:16

Mat 19:16 Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

Mat 19:17 "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."

Mat 19:18 "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony,

Mat 19:19 honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Mat 19:20 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

Mat 19:21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

End Lesson Taught 1-28-2001